(c) and (d) Calicut is available as point of call for the designated airlines of ASEAN countries *viz.* Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Combodia, Vietnam and Brunei and SAARC countries *viz.* Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Maldives with unlimited access. Apart from these, Calicut has also been granted as point of call to the designated airlines of Gulf countries also *viz.* UAE (Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Ras-Al-Khaimah), Oman and Qatar recently.

(e) Foreign airlines can operate to and from airports in India within the framework of bilateral Air Services agreements of India with the foreign country concerned.

Income from Mumbai Airport

2965. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai airport was handed over to Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. for construction, modernisation and upgradation on private venture route;

(b) if so, the income of Mumbai airport on air tariff and on rentals for the years 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008; and

(c) the details regarding the development and upgradation of Mumbai airport after and before handing over to the consortiums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The income of the airport during the last 3 years was: 2005-06 Rs. 665.48 crores, 2006-07 Rs. 718.93 crores and 2007-08 Rs. 856.83 crores (provisional).

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has entered into an Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) with M/s Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (MIAL) for Mumbai airport. The airport was handed over to MIAL on 03.05.2006. Under the OMDA, MIAL is required to complete 32 Mandatory Capital Projects (MCPs) by 31.03.2010. 26 MCPs out of 32 have since been completed and rest are progressing as per schedule.

Before handing over the airport to MIAL, AAI has completed the works relating to construction of additional parking bays, link taxi track, new bridge over Mithi river, 4 nos. international remote parking bays, taxiway parallel to secondary runway, new additional parking bays, rapid taxitrack, resurfacing of secondary runway and expansion and modification of Terminal 1B.

Issue Process of Primary Markets

2966. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group to Review Issue Process (GRIP) panel has recommended elimination of application forms in the primary market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) has suggested for no manual intervention in the issue process of the primary market;

(c) if so, the benefits of these recommendations to the public investors across the country;

(d) whether this will be transparent and easy to access by all; and

(e) by when this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The Group on Review of Issue Process (GRIP) constituted by SEBI Primary Markets Advisory Committee has, *inter-alia*, recommended modified application forms which can be submitted physically as well as electronically.

(b) to (d) Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) has in principle, endorsed the suggestions of GRIP on no manual intervention in the issue process. These measures will enable faster and transparent processing of application forms leading to a reduction in the time gap between closure of an IPO and its listing. Further, these measures would not adversely affect the accessibility of the issue.

(e) After due examination of comments received, the scheme will be placed for approval by the SEBI Board.

Promotion of Indian culture in North-Eastern Region

2967. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy to protect, develop and promote the Indian culture in North-Eastern Region including Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent during the last two years for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture has been making all efforts to protect, develop and promote culture in North Eastern States including Sikkim by undertaking various activities in these states through several schemes of the Ministry as well as its attached/subordinate offices and autonomous organizations. 10% of the total Annual Plan allocation of this Ministry is earmarked for the development of Art and Culture in the North Eastern States including Sikkim. A special festival titled - Octave has been introduced since 2006 for highlighting the culture of the North East in other parts of the country.

(c) The details of the amount spent for developing the promoting culture in North Eastern States including Sikkim during the last 2 years in respect of organizations/schemes is given in the statement.